

APPENDIX A

1 (Cancelled).

2 (Currently Amended). A lifting apparatus for transferring a user to and from a seat of a vehicle, the apparatus comprising:

a mounting and support assembly for attachment to a chassis of the vehicle;

an extension arm assembly directly coupled to the mounting and support assembly in a non-pivoting manner such that the extension arm assembly is located substantially behind the vehicle seat; and

a transfer seat assembly directly coupled to the extension arm assembly for directly supporting a user seated thereon;

wherein the extension arm assembly is operative to raise and lower the transfer seat assembly, wherein the transfer seat assembly is operative to transition between a seating configuration and a stowed configuration, wherein ~~such that~~ the transfer seat assembly is substantially laterally adjacent to and level with a substantially horizontal sitting portion of the vehicle seat when the transfer seat assembly is raised by the extension arm assembly and the transfer seat assembly is in the seating configuration, and wherein the transfer seat assembly is unable to support a user when the transfer seat assembly is in the stowed configuration.

3 (Currently Amended). The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the transfer seat assembly comprises:

a support member directly coupled to the extension arm assembly; and

a transfer seat directly coupled to the support member for directly supporting a user seated thereon when the transfer seat assembly is in the seating configuration.

4 (Previously Presented). The apparatus of claim 3, wherein the support member pivots about a substantially horizontal axis between a substantially horizontal position and a substantially vertical position.

5 (Previously Presented). The apparatus of claim 4, wherein the transfer seat pivots about a substantially horizontal axis when the support member is in its substantially horizontal position and about a substantially vertical axis when the support member is in its substantially vertical position, such that the transfer seat pivots between a substantially horizontal seating position and a substantially vertical stowed position when the support member is in its substantially horizontal position.

6 (Previously Presented). The apparatus of claim 3, wherein the transfer seat is modular and removable.

7 (Previously Presented). The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the vehicle seat is located directly adjacent to a doorway of the vehicle.

8 (Currently Amended). A lifting apparatus for transferring a user to and from a seat of a vehicle, the apparatus comprising:

a mounting and support assembly for attachment to a chassis of the vehicle;

an extension arm assembly directly coupled to the mounting and support assembly in a non-pivoting manner such that the extension arm assembly is located substantially in front of the vehicle seat; and

a transfer seat assembly directly coupled to the extension arm assembly for directly supporting a user seated thereon;

wherein the extension arm assembly is operative to raise and lower the transfer seat assembly, wherein the transfer seat assembly is operative to transition between a seating configuration and a stowed configuration, wherein ~~such that~~ the transfer seat assembly is substantially laterally adjacent to and level with a substantially horizontal sitting portion of the vehicle seat when the transfer seat assembly is raised by the

extension arm assembly and the transfer seat assembly is in the seating configuration, and wherein the transfer seat assembly is unable to support a user when the transfer seat assembly is in the stowed configuration.

9 (Previously Presented). The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the extension arm assembly comprises telescoping inner and outer members.

10 (Previously Presented). The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the extension arm assembly comprises telescoping inner and outer members.

11 (Currently Amended). The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the transfer seat assembly comprises:

a support member directly coupled to the extension arm assembly; and

a transfer seat directly coupled to the support member for directly supporting a user seated thereon when the transfer seat assembly is in the seating configuration.

12 (Previously Presented). The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the support member pivots about a substantially horizontal axis between a substantially horizontal position and a substantially

vertical position.

13 (Previously Presented). The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the transfer seat pivots about a substantially horizontal axis when the support member is in its substantially horizontal position and about a substantially vertical axis when the support member is in its substantially vertical position, such that the transfer seat pivots between a substantially horizontal seating position and a substantially vertical stowed position when the support member is in its substantially horizontal position.

14 (Previously Presented). The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the transfer seat is modular and removable.

15 (Previously Presented). The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the vehicle seat is located directly adjacent to a doorway of the vehicle.

16 (New). The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the extension arm assembly is operative to transition between a fully extended state wherein a portion of the extension arm assembly is lowered to be outside of the vehicle and a fully retracted state wherein the entirety of the extension arm assembly is raised to be

inside of the vehicle.

17 (New). The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the extension arm assembly is operative to transition between a fully extended state wherein a portion of the extension arm assembly is lowered to be outside of the vehicle and a fully retracted state wherein the entirety of the extension arm assembly is raised to be inside of the vehicle.

18 (New). The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the extension arm assembly comprises an actuator that is always located inside of the vehicle.

19 (New). The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the extension arm assembly comprises an actuator that is always located inside of the vehicle.

20 (New). The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the mounting and support assembly is attached to existing vehicle seat mounting means.

21 (New). The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the mounting and support assembly is attached to existing vehicle seat mounting means.